

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead Inventory Number: F-4-23

Address: 205 Franklin Street City: Middletown Zip Code: 21769

County: Frederick USGS Topographic Map: Middletown

Owner: J. Homer and Marcia E. Remsberg // Frederick County Board of Education - 115 E. Church Street, Frederick, MD

Tax Parcel Number: 208, 205 Tax Map Number: 65 Tax Account ID Number: 11-03-157660, 11-03-143848

Project: _____ Agency: _____

Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Is the property located within a historic district? ☒ no ☐ yes Name of district: _____

Is district listed? ☐ no ☐ yes Determined eligible? ☐ no ☐ yes District Inventory Number: _____

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead is an agricultural complex dating from ca. 1857. The complex is divided into two sections: a domestic area on the southwest side of Holter Road and an agricultural complex on the northeast side of Holter Road. The domestic complex includes a ca. 1857 brick dwelling, a ca. 1940 brick smokehouse, and a modern concrete block and brick garage. The agricultural complex includes a ca. 1923 concrete block dairy barn with a 1937 dairy, a ca. 1923 frame hog barn, a small, ca. 1937 barn, and a modern equipment building.

The farmhouse is locally significant under Criterion B for its association with John Harmon Remsberg and J. Homer Remsberg and Criterion C for architecture. The dwelling was the primary residence of John Harmon Remsberg. He was a successful farmer, a founder of the Granger's Fire Insurance Company, and served on the first board of directors of the Valley Saving Bank. The house was also the home to J. Homer Remsberg, a dairy cattle breeder and promoter, who served on numerous local, state, regional, and national dairy organizations. As noted by Janet Davis, the dwelling is good representative of rural farms from 1850-1875.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐
Criteria: ☐ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: *The house is eligible - the farm site as a historic district includes the house. The remaining farm buildings no longer contribute to the significance of the historic property.*

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Reviewer, NR program

Date

Date

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

F-4-23

The farm has been subdivided numerous times and earliest agricultural and domestic outbuildings have been removed. Due to the removal of many of the agricultural buildings the farmstead no longer illustrates nineteenth century farming practices in Frederick County. Large portions of the pasturelands for the dairy herd have been turned into housing developments and the remaining land have lain fallow for over ten years. The milking equipment has been removed from the dairy barn and several twentieth-century buildings were removed. The remaining agricultural buildings have been altered and do not appear to have sufficient integrity to illustrate agricultural building practices. Therefore, the John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead is not representative of the Frederick County's twentieth century farming transition to dairying. The farmstead does not appear to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for agriculture or Criterion C for architecture. The remaining agriculture buildings are associated with J. Homer Remsberg, but do^{not} retain sufficient integrity to be considered under Criterion B.

Prepared by: Brian Clevon

Date Prepared: May 2002

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. F-4-23

(Amendment)

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic John Harmon Remsburg Farmstead

other Home Farm

2. Location

street and number 205 Franklin Street not for publication

city, town Middletown vicinity

county Frederick

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name J. Homer and Marcia E. Remsburg // Frederick County Board of Education

street and number Same as above // 115 E. Church Street telephone 301-371-6356 // 301-644-5000

city, town Same as above // Frederick state MD zip code 21769 // 21701

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick liber 1823, 3050 folio 902, 767

city, town Frederick tax map 65 tax parcel 208, 205 tax ID number 157660, 143848

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☒ Other: MIHP Form F-4-23

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

13

7. Description

Inventory No. F-4-23 (amended)

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Description Summary

The John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead is an agricultural complex dating from ca. 1857. The complex is divided into two sections: a domestic area located on the southwest side of Holter Road and an agricultural complex located on the northeast side of Holter Road. The domestic complex includes a ca. 1857 brick dwelling, a ca. 1940 brick smokehouse and, a concrete block and brick garage. The agricultural complex includes a ca. 1923 concrete block dairy barn with a 1937 dairy, a ca. 1923 frame hog barn, a small, ca. 1937 barn, and an equipment building. Only the dwelling appears to be eligible for the National Register.

General Description

Domestic Complex:

The house is characterized by a two-bay, two-story, main portion with a side-by-side, two-story brick wing built at the same time. The main section features a hipped roof porch with turned wood columns. The wing has a two-story integral porch with scroll sawn decorative balustrade on the second story. The brick smokehouse is lined with concrete block and it exhibits a gable roof with an overhang on the northeast elevation. The concrete block and brick garage features office space. No visible changes were made to the dwelling, the smokehouse, and garage as recorded by Ms. Davis (Davis 1992). Since her survey, the summer kitchen, chicken houses, and frame shed have been removed from the domestic complex.

Agricultural Complex:

Since Davis' survey in 1992, the agricultural complex has been subdivided from the domestic complex and the dairy barn, hog barn, and small barn have been subdivided from the other agricultural buildings (Frederick County Land Records 2219:248; 3050:767). In addition, the farm has not been in agricultural use for over ten years and the bank barn and the corn crib/wagon shed have been removed.

Visual inspection confirms that the dairy and hog barns are the same as described by Ms. Davis. The roofs of the silos have been removed. Both silos are located along the north elevation of the dairy barn. The eastern silo, constructed of tile blocks, is in imminent danger of collapse.

The small barn features rebuilt concrete block walls and a standing seam, metal, gambrel roof. The barn rests on a concrete slab that has been severely undermined. The severe erosion is impacting the stability of the structure. The building housed two animal pens with concrete water troughs. Vertically sliding doors on the north elevation provided animal access to the pens. A hallway along the south elevation was separated from the pens by vertical wood posts.

8. Significance

Inventory No. F-4-23 (amended)

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates ca. 1857; ca. 1923; 1937; ca. 1940 **Architect/Builder** N/A

Construction dates ca. 1857; ca. 1923; 1937; ca. 1940

Evaluation for:

☒ National Register ☒ Maryland Register ☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Significance Summary

The John Harmon Remsberg Farm was established in ca. 1857. The farmhouse fulfills the criteria for significance under Criterion B for its association with John Harmon Remsberg and J. Homer Remsberg and under Criterion C for architecture. John Harmon Remsberg was a farmer, a founder of the Granger's Fire Insurance Company, and served on the first board of directors of the Valley Saving Bank. J. Homer Remsberg was a prominent breeder and promoter of dairy cattle and the dairy industry in general. The farm has been subdivided numerous times and earliest agricultural and domestic outbuildings have been removed. The remaining farm buildings have been altered and do not have sufficient integrity to be considered eligible for the National Register under Criterion A.

Previous Investigations

Ms. Davis surveyed the John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead (F-4-23), in 1992 as part of a comprehensive survey. She identified 12 contributing buildings and 3 noncontributing buildings. Holter Road divides the buildings into two groups. The domestic complex is located on the southwest side of Holter Road. It included a ca. 1857 brick dwelling, a ca. 1940 brick smokehouse, two frame chicken houses, a deteriorated frame shed, and a modern brick garage with office space. The agricultural complex is located on the northeast side of Holter Road. It contained a ca. 1857 frame bank barn, a ca. 1930 two-level frame corn crib and wagon shed, a ca. 1923 concrete block dairy barn with a 1937 addition, two ca. 1930 silos, a ca. 1923 frame hog barn, a small concrete block barn, and a modern equipment shed (Davis 1992).

Ms. Davis found the farmstead showed the changes in the agricultural industry from wheat and other grain production in the 1850s to dairying in the 1940s. She also found that the house was a good representative of architecture of rural dwellings from 1850-1875.

Historic Context and Resource History

The John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead is located on the southeast side of Holter Road, south of Middletown. This property was originally the northern portion of the land purchased by John Harmon's grandfather, John Remsberg Sr., in 1790 (Williams 1910 ;

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. F-4-23
(Amended)

Name
Continuation Sheet

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Remberg n.d.). The property was comprised of tracts from "Good Wife" and the "Resurvey of Turkey Range" and contained 275 acres (Williams 1910 ; Remberg n.d.). In his will, dated October 1840 and probated 24 November 1845, John Remsberg bequeathed to his son, John, Jr., "the farm that he now resides on being the remaining parts of tracts (not given to his brother Henry)" (GME 3:135 Frederick County Register of Wills). John Remsberg, Jr. was a successful farmer. He purchased a number of tracts of land including the portions of his father's land willed to his other siblings. By the time of his son's, John Harmon Remsberg, wedding in 1857, John Remsberg, Jr. owned four farms (Williams 1910 ; Remberg n.d.). In his will dated 15 February 1865 and probated 27 February 1865, John Jr. bequeathed to his son "the farm which he now resides" (TLMcL 1:129 Frederick County Register of Wills). The 1860 agricultural census indicates that John Harmon Remsberg, referred to as Harmon in the census, was working a 73-acre farm, which was one of the four farms owned by his father. After his father's death, John Harmon Remsberg purchased more land from the estate of his father increasing the farm to 161 acres (Agricultural census 1870).

The agricultural censuses from the mid to late nineteenth century indicate that the main cash crops of the Remsberg farms were wheat and corn, which were typical of farms in the Middletown Valley. Other grains and produce grown in smaller quantities included rye, oats, and Irish and sweet potatoes. During this time, John Harmon Remsberg began growing orchard products. He also began raising cattle and other live stock, which would play a larger role in the early twentieth century (Hitselberger and Dern 1978; Agricultural Census 1860, 1870, and 1880).

John Harmon Remsberg married Mary E. Lighter 9 February 1857 (Myers 2000). The present house was likely built as a wedding gift. The couple had nine children. John Harmon was a businessman as well as a farmer. He was a founding member of the Valley Savings Bank and the Granger's Fire Insurance Company, which were both in Middletown.

The Valley Savings Bank was established in 1887. John Harmon Remsberg served on its first board of directors. The business was the town's second attempt to start a savings bank. The first, Catoctin Savings Institution, failed twenty years prior to the founding of Valley Savings Bank. By 1907, the Valley Savings Bank had \$300,000.00 in deposits (Williams 1910: 534-535).

John Harmon Remsberg also was associated with the Grangers Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The firm was incorporated in 1876, as a result of the Grangers movement of 1873. The Grangers movement organized farmers in the post-Civil War era into economic and political bodies (Tindall and Shi 1992: 885-86). The Grangers Mutual Fire Insurance Company was unique in that it insured only low-risk rural policyholders. Farmers benefited because the practice allowed the Grangers Insurance Company to minimize its premiums (Williams 1910 :553-554).

John Harmon Remsberg died 3 May 1898 (Remberg n.d.). In his will, he bequeathed large portions of his farm to Albert S. and Amos L., two of his four sons, and small lot and house for his wife (JKW 2:289 Frederick County Register of Wills; Frederick County Assessment Records 1896-1910). Amos' and Albert's portions were designated "Home Farm" and "Lover's Farm"

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Name
Continuation Sheet

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respectively. The farms were recorded in a plat made for a report of sale in March 1899 (JKW 2:372,412 Register of Wills). Amos L. Remsberg's "Home Farm" comprised 123 acres, one rod, and 26 square perches (JKW 2:412 Frederick County Register of Wills).

After World War I, the overproduction of wheat and the Great Depression forced many Frederick County farmers out of business. During this time, farmers increasingly switched to milk as the primary cash crop. Before the twentieth century, milk production was limited to two sources, the family cow or milk produced locally and transported short distances, since milk spoiled quickly. Unsanitary conditions prevailed and bacteria and diseases were often transmitted through milk. At the end of the nineteenth century, Louis Pasteur discovered that partial sterilization or Pasteurization neutralized most of the harmful bacteria in dairy products. As this scientific discovery was publicized, its impacts reshaped dairy operations. Pasteurization made milk a safer drink, which increased demand for the product. The increasing population in nearby metropolitan areas also resulted in a greater demand for milk. As a result, the county became a major dairy producer in Maryland and remains so today (Schmidt 1988).

The Remsbergs' followed this trend with the construction of their dairy barn, ca. 1923. Due to the increasing health regulations the addition on the barn was extended (ca. 1937) to increase the size of the dairy (Davis 1992).

Amos L. Remsberg's "Home Farm" was transferred to his son J. Homer Remsberg on 1 April 1926 (Frederick County Land Record 356:529). The property contained 130 acres. The majority was the original "Home Farm." Amos also bought two acres, three rods, and 18 square perches from the estate of his father on 18 March 1899 (Frederick County Land Record DHH 3:448). Later he bought three acres, one rod, and 26 perches from Ephram Mash in 17 April 1909 (Frederick County Land Record STH 287:314).

J. Homer Remsberg was a major promoter of the dairy industry. In 1922, he helped organize the Frederick County Holstein Association, which promoted Holstein cattle as a dairy breed. He was elected as the organization's first Secretary-Treasurer and served in that capacity for 40 years. In 1928, he reorganized the Maryland Holstein-Friesian Association and was elected its first president. He served as president for 15 years over two separate terms. J. Homer Remsberg also served the largest dairy cattle breed organization in the world, the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, as Director for 16 years, as Vice-President for 3 years, and 2 years as its President. Remsberg also promoted agriculture as the Master of the Middletown Valley Grange, Master of the Frederick County Pomona Grange, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Maryland State Grange. He was the President of the Maryland Purebred Dairy Cattle Association from its founding in 1946 through, at least, the mid-1960s. He was also the President of the national organization for two years. He also served as President of the Atlantic Dairy Association, the Dairy Council of Greater Metropolitan Washington, and as president and director of the Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Association (Remsberg 1964).

For his work as a breeder and a promoter, the University of Maryland presented the Distinguished Service Award for outstanding work in Maryland agriculture to J. Homer Remsberg in 1948. In 1954 the State Farm Bureau presented him the Progressive Farmer's Award as the "Man of the Year in Maryland Agriculture" (Remsberg 1964).

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(Amended)

Name
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J. Homer Remsberg died 13 April 1976 and bequeathed portions of his land to his wife and children as recorded on 17 May 1976 (Frederick County Land Record 1082:556). The land was divided among divided into six equal parts with Sarah L. Remsberg, his wife, with two equal parts, and Carol R. Bare and Joyce R. Shanks, his daughters, and J. Homer Remsberg, Jr. and Adrian McCardell Remsberg, his sons each received an equal part.

On 1 January 1993, the agricultural land northeast of Holter Road was sold to a development company and a housing development was built on the eastern portions of this land (Frederick County Land Record 2219:248). The farm was further subdivided when a portion of the agricultural land and half of the agricultural buildings were sold to the Board of Education of Frederick County (Frederick County Land Record 3050:767).

Due to the removal of many of the agricultural buildings the farmstead no longer illustrates nineteenth century farming practices in Frederick County. The pasturelands for the dairy herd and the milking equipment have been removed from the farm, therefore the John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead is not representative of the Frederick County's twentieth century farming transition to dairying. Therefore the farmstead does not appear to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for agriculture.

As noted by Janet Davis, the dwelling is good representative of rural farms in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The dwelling was also the primary residence of John Harmon Remsberg when he became locally prominent. The dwelling, therefore, appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criteria B and C.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. F-4-23 (amended)

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 18.921 acres
Acreage of historical setting 123 acres, 1 rod, 26 sq perches
Quadrangle name Middletown

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Two-acre parcel centered on the John Harmon Remsberg house.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Brian Cleven/Industrial Archeologist; Nate Patch/Historian		
organization	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.	date	May 2002
street & number	241 E. Fourth Street #100	telephone	301-694-0428
city or town	Frederick	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. F-4-23
(Amended)

Name
Continuation Sheet

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References:

- Davis, Janet
1992 "John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead (F-4-23) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form." On file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.
- Frederick County Assessments
Assessment Records located in the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.
- Frederick County Records
Land Records and Register of Will located in the Frederick County Courthouse, Frederick, Maryland.
- Hitselberger, Mary Fitzhugh, and John Philip Dern
1978 *Bridge in Time: The Complete 1850 Census of Frederick County, Maryland*. Monocacy Book Company, Redwood City, California.
- Meyer, Margaret E.
2000 *Marriage Licenses of Frederick County, 1841-1865*. Willow Bend Books, Westminster, Maryland.
- Pirtle, Thomas
1926 *History of the Dairy Industry*. Mijonnier Brothers Co., Chicago, Illinois.
- Remsberg, J. Homer
1964 *History and Development of Holstein Cattle in Frederick County, Maryland 1922-1964*. Frederick County Holstein Association, Middletown, Maryland.
- Remsberg, Rev. Wilson L.
n.d. *Genealogy of the Remsberg Family in America*. Valley Register Press, Middletown, Maryland.
- Schmidt, G. H., L. D. Van Vleck, M. F. Hutjens,
1988 *Principles of Dairy Science, 2nd edition*. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.
- Tindall, George Brown, and David E. Shi
1992 *America: A Narrative History, 3rd Edition*. W.W. Norton & Company, New York, New York.
- United States Agricultural Census
1860, 1870, and 1880 located on microfilm at the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.
- Williams, T.J.C.
1910 *History of Frederick County, Maryland*. Two volumes. L.T. Titsworth & Company. Reprinted in 1967 by the Regional Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland.

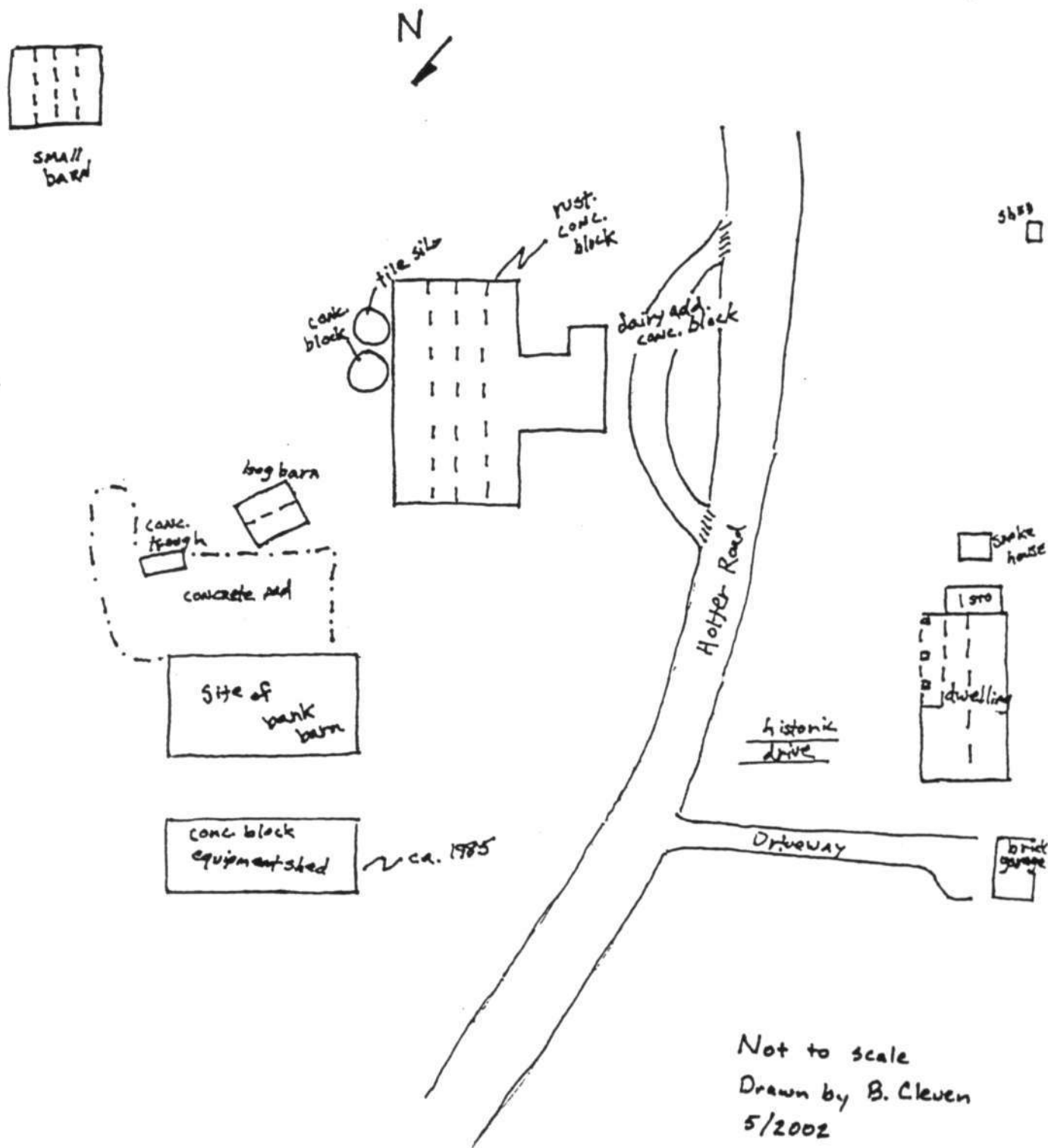
F-4-23

John Harmon Remberg Farmstead

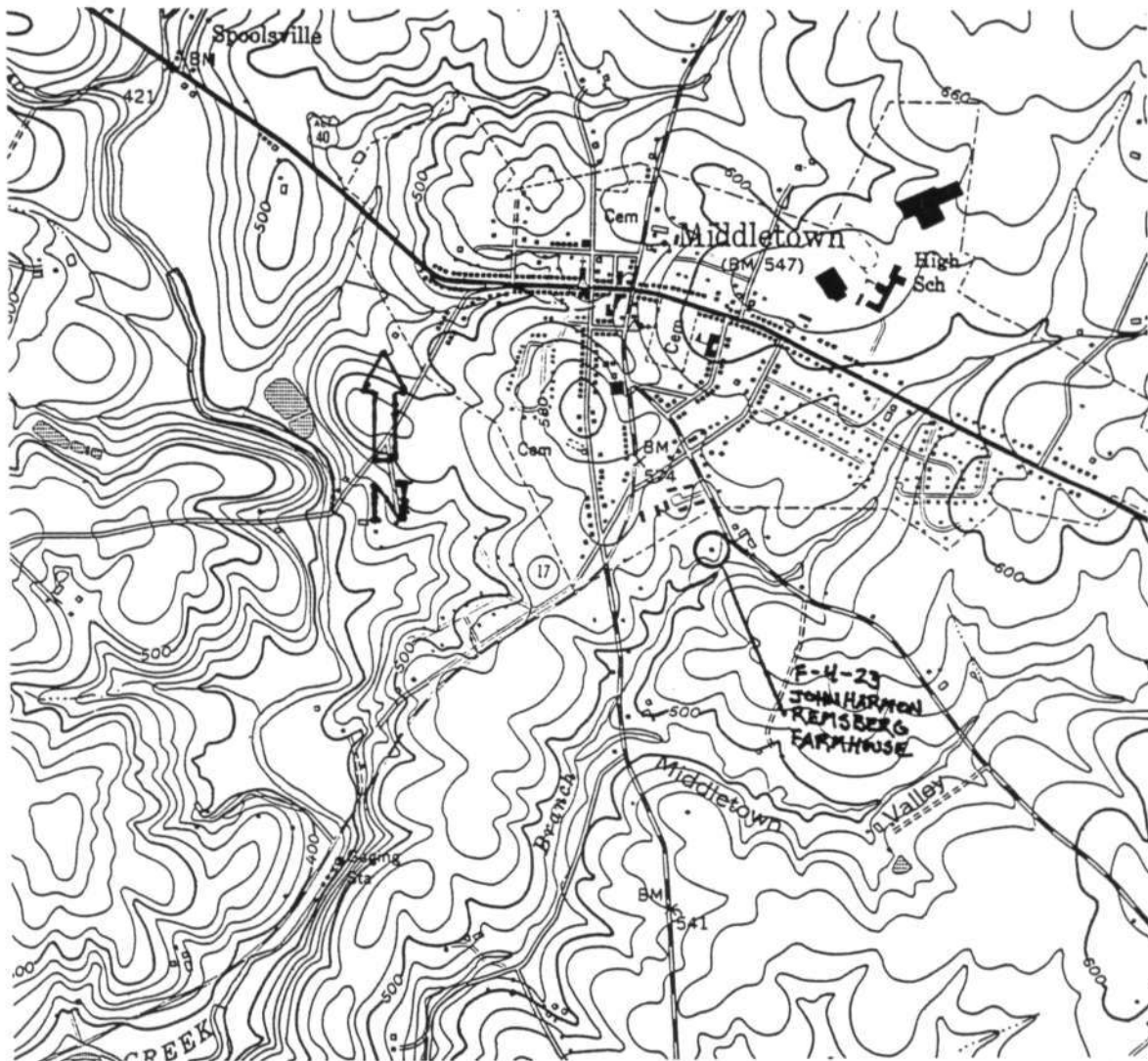
Middletown

Frederick County

Sketch map



F-4-23
John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead
Middletown
Frederick County
Middletown Quadrangle





F-4-23

John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead

Frederick Co, Md

B. Cleven

4/29/02

Maryland SHPO

Farmhouse, view SSW

1 of 5



'02 429

F-4-23

John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead

Frederick Co, Md

B. Cleven

4/29/02

Maryland SHPO

Bank Barn site, view W

2 of 5



'02 4 29

F-4-23

John Harmon Reinsberg Farmstead

Frederick Co, Md

B. Cleven

4/29/02

Maryland SHPO

Dairy Barn, view E

3 of 5



F-4-23

John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead

Frederick Co, Md

B. Cleven

4/29/02

Maryland SHPO

Small Barn, view SE

4 of 5



E-4-23

John Harmon Reinsberg Farmstead

Frederick Co, Md

B. Cleven

4/29/02

Maryland SHPO

Hog Barn, view ENE

5 of 5

F-4-23

John Harmon Rensberg Farmstead
Middletown vicinity
Private

Ca. 1857-1940

The John Harmon Rensberg Farmstead consists of domestic and agricultural groups of buildings on both sides of Holter Road southeast of Middletown. The domestic group has a ca. 1857 brick dwelling with a two-bay main section and a side-by-side wing with a two-story porch. The house has molded lintels and a scroll-sawn balustrade on the porch. Other buildings on the southwest side of Holter Road are a deteriorated brick smokehouse of about 1940 with a tree inside which came from an earlier Rensberg family smokehouse on another farm, a deteriorated frame summer kitchen, two frame chicken houses, a deteriorated shed, and a non-contributing concrete block garage and office structure. The agricultural group has a frame bank barn of about the same date as the house, a circa 1923 concrete block dairy barn with a 1937 extension, a two-level corn crib/wagon shed, a frame hog barn, and two silos. The farmstead represents the agricultural development of Frederick County from principally grain-producing farms in the mid-19th century to the dairy operations of the 20th century. The bank barn which served the earlier farm was supplemented in the 1920's by the concrete dairy barn, a reflection of the health regulations which accompanied the expanding dairy industry. Dairy production replaced grain in connection with the growth of the metropolitan area of Washington, D.C. in the period 1920 to the present.

F-4-23

John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead
Middletown
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/kitchen
Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn
Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: None

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead

and/or common

2. Locationstreet & number 7432 Holter Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Middletown ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John H. Remsberg, Jr. et al

street & number 7111 Old Middletown Road telephone no.:

city, town Middletown state and zip code Md. 21769

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1304

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 750

city, town Middletown state Md. 21769

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-23

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 13

The John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead is an agricultural complex dating from about 1857 to 1940 which includes a circa 1857 brick dwelling with a deteriorated frame summer kitchen of about the same period, a circa 1940 brick smokehouse, two frame chicken houses, a deteriorated frame shed, and an agricultural group consisting of a frame bank barn approximately contemporary with the house, a circa 1930 two-level frame corn crib and wagon shed, a circa 1923 concrete block dairy barn with a 1937 extension, two concrete silos of the 1930's, and a frame hog barn of about 1923. The farmstead is located on both sides of Holter Road just southeast of Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland. The domestic group on the southwest side of the road also includes a non-contributing concrete block and brick garage with an integral office space. The agricultural group on the northeast side of the road has two non-contributing concrete block structures, one an equipment shed near the bank barn and the other a small barn with a gambrel roof north of the hog barn.

The dwelling faces northeast and is set back from Holter Road across a small creek which passes through the property to a pond south east of the house. The house has two sections, a two bay, two-story main part with a side-by-side two-story brick wing built at the same time. Both sections are in 5:1 American bond with a corbeled brick cornice. The main section has two bays with the entrance in the inner bay and a one-story porch with turned columns across the entire facade. The window openings have molded wood lintels, wood sills, 6/6 sash, and louvre shutters. The doorway has a three-light transom and the door has arched molding panels. The roof is composition material and the main section has two chimney stacks, one enclosed by the adjoining wing. The wing has an integral two-story porch with square posts and a scroll-sawn decorative balustrade on the second level. Four bays in the wing's northeast elevation have two entrances in the inner bays. These have paneled soffits and three-light transoms, and the window openings have molded lintels as on the main section. The sash is 6/6. An interior end chimney rises at the south gable end. On the flat rear or southwest elevation are three widely spaced bays with an added bathroom window on the second floor. The rear doorway from the wing has a modern wood deck. A cellar entrance is located on the south gable end. On the southwest corner is a brick extension, perhaps a storage room, on a raised stone foundation. It has a window on the southwest side and a shed roof. The interior was not accessible for this survey.

Domestic Outbuildings:

Smokehouse: The brick smokehouse was built about 1940, according to Mr. Adrian Remsberg, one of the current owners. It has a gable roof with an overhang on the northeast elevation. It is lined with concrete block and has a labeled wood tree which Mr. Remsberg said was brought from an earlier smokehouse on another family property.

Summer kitchen: The deteriorated frame summer kitchen has two stories and a one-room plan with a brick fireplace on the south gable end. The exterior is

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-23

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1857-C. 1940

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead is a good example of a farm of the mid-19th century which shows the changes in the agricultural industry in Frederick County during the period from the late 1850's to the 1940's, a time in which the principal agricultural base moved from wheat and other grain production to dairying, as the demand for milk products increased with the expansion of the nearby Washington metropolitan area in the period about 1920 into the present. The farmstead has the separate dairy barn which signified not only the massive increase in milking operations, but also the concurrent health regulations of the industry which called for separation of the process from other agricultural functions. The house is also a good representative of the architecture of the rural dwelling of the third quarter the 19th century, with the side-by-side wing and main section which was a traditional form of the early 19th century, with the addition of decorative balustrades and moldings of the more industrialized post-1850 period.

The Remsberg Farmstead is typical of several farms in the immediate vicinity of Middletown which show the chronology of buildings of both domestic and agricultural use. Other examples are the Jonathan Routzahn Farmstead (F-4-20) and the Routzahn-Darner Farmstead (F-4-21). John Harmon Remsberg (1832-1898) was one of the founders of the Valley Savings Bank and a director of the Grangers Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The Holter Road farm was probably built about the time of his marriage to Mary Lighter in 1857. When he acquired the title to the farm in 1865 by the last will of his father John Remsberg, it was described as "the farm on which he now resides", indicating that it was established by that date. The tract was part of the northern section of the Remsberg family homestead established in about 1791. At the time of his death in 1898, J. Harmon Remsberg owned two 135-acre farms, both of which were passed on to his sons. The Remsberg family still owns the Holter Road farm, but the domestic group is currently unoccupied and for sale separately from the agricultural buildings, which are no longer in active use as a dairy operation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-23

Bond, Isaac, Map of Frederick County, 1858.

Land Records of Frederick County

Titus, C.O., Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

Williams, T.J.C. & Folger McKinsey, History of Frederick County, V. II, 1910, Reprinted
Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, pp. 1379, 1425.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acresQuadrangle name Middletown, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately five acres centered on front lawn of dwelling house including the domestic group on the west side of Holter Road and the agricultural group on the east side of the road.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date February, 1992street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone _____city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

7.1 Description Continued)

tongue-and-groove siding, with a large opening in the north wall. The few existing windows are mostly 6/6 or 6/1.

Chicken houses: The two frame chicken houses have shed roofs, tongue-and-groove and board and batten siding with the windowed elevations facing south. These structures are also deteriorated and probably date from the last quarter of the 19th century or the first quarter of the 20th.

Frame shed: This deteriorated shed may have been built as an early garage in the first decade of the 20th century. It has a corrugated shed roof and vertical siding, with a wide door on the northeast elevation. It is located next to the non-contributing concrete block garage/office building.

Agricultural Outbuildings:

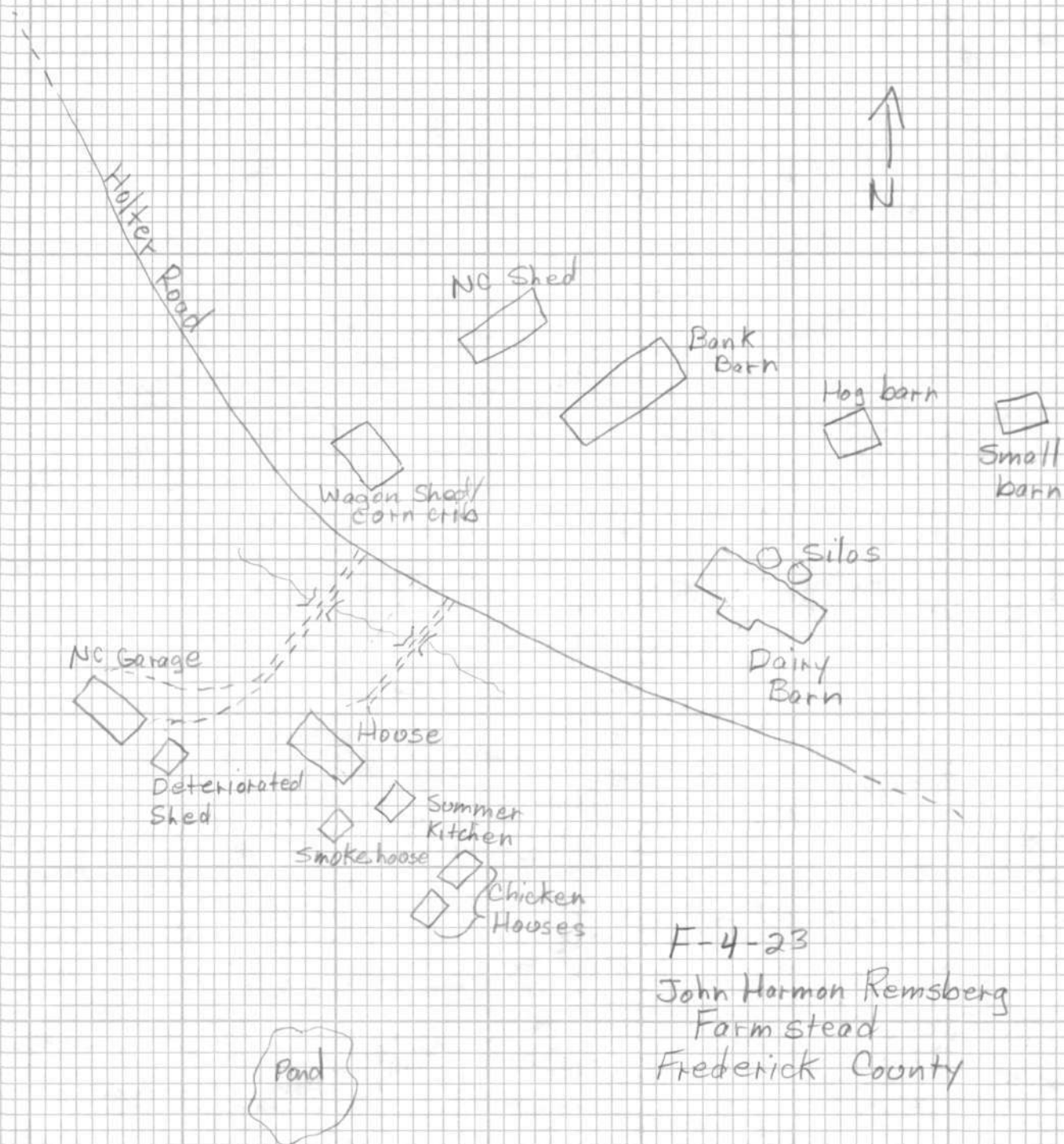
Bank barn: The bank barn, as are all the agricultural structures, is located on the northeast side of Holter Road. It was probably built about 1857 along with the domestic structures. The large rectangular barn has a loafing shed with a metal roof on the north gable end and the lower level, facing south, is partially enclosed with lattice, a detail often seen on barns of the lower Middletown Valley. The louvred vents in the vertical siding of the upper structure are framed with decorative moldings.

Dairy barn: The dairy barn has two sections, a 1923 rusticated concrete block main part with a standing seam metal gambrel roof and decorative metal ridge ventilators. The gable ends are covered with german siding. A plain concrete block extension on the long south elevation was added in 1937, probably to facilitate an expansion in dairy operations. Two concrete silos are located on the north side of the barn and probably date from the same period, 1923-1937.

Hog barn: The frame hog barn has vertical tongue-and-groove siding and a corrugated metal roof. Located northeast of the bank barn, it was probably built in the 1920's or 1930's in response to health regulations associated with the dairy industry.

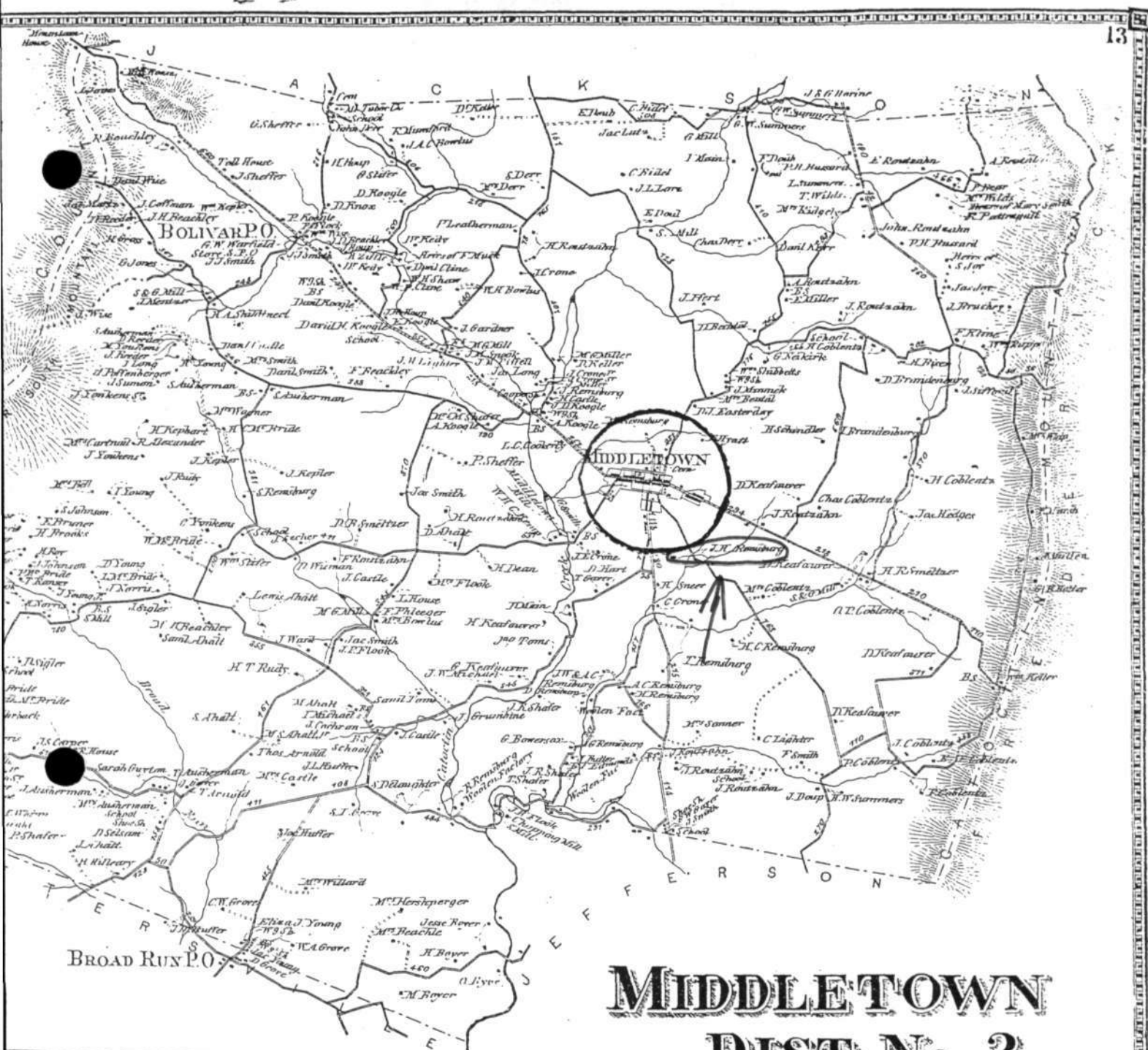
Corn crib/wagon shed: The two-level corn crib and wagon shed built about 1930-35 is located near Holter Road with the shed at road level. The upper level, with a ramp on the north elevation, is the granary. According to Mr. Remsberg, the structure was built when Holter Road was relocated to the south, and the former roadbed against the excavated hillside was built over to form the lower level shed. The shed has double drive-through spaces. On the upper vertical board siding are the painted monograms "LF", symbolizing the name "Locvale Farm", which was given to the farm by J. Homer Remsberg, the owner from 1926 to 1976.

#28 Rensberg on Halter LIBER/FOLIO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1304/750 9 Oct 85	Sharon S. Kidd et al	Robert E. Shank, exec. of estate of Joyce Rensberg Shank died 9 Oct 1984	132.879 a.		
1082/556 17 May 79	Joyce R. Shank et al	Sarah L. Rensberg, et al, pers. reps. of estate of J. Homer Rensberg (son of Abby Mc. Rensberg) died 13 Apr 76	P. 1; "Home Farm" 63.31 a. (not orig. Rensberg family home farm)		
356/529 1 Apr 26	J. Homer & Abby McCardell Rensberg	Amos L. Rensberg & Ida May Rensberg			
Will Record JKW 2/289 probate 20 May 1898	Amos L. Rensberg	J. Harmon Rensberg will dated 27 Apr 1898 (1832-1898)	123 a.		
Will Record TL Mc. 1-129 Probate 2-27-1895	J. Harmon Rensberg "farm"	John Rensberg	"The farm on which he now resides"		
					F-4-23



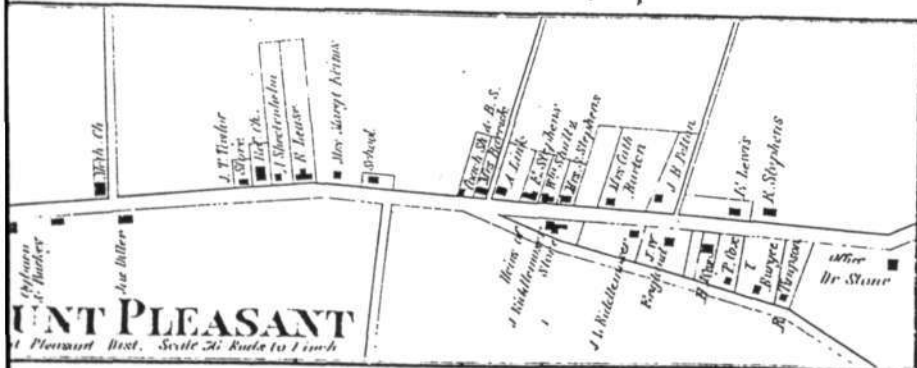
F-4-23
John Harmon Remsberg
Farmstead
Frederick County

Janet Davis
January 28, 1992
Not to Scale



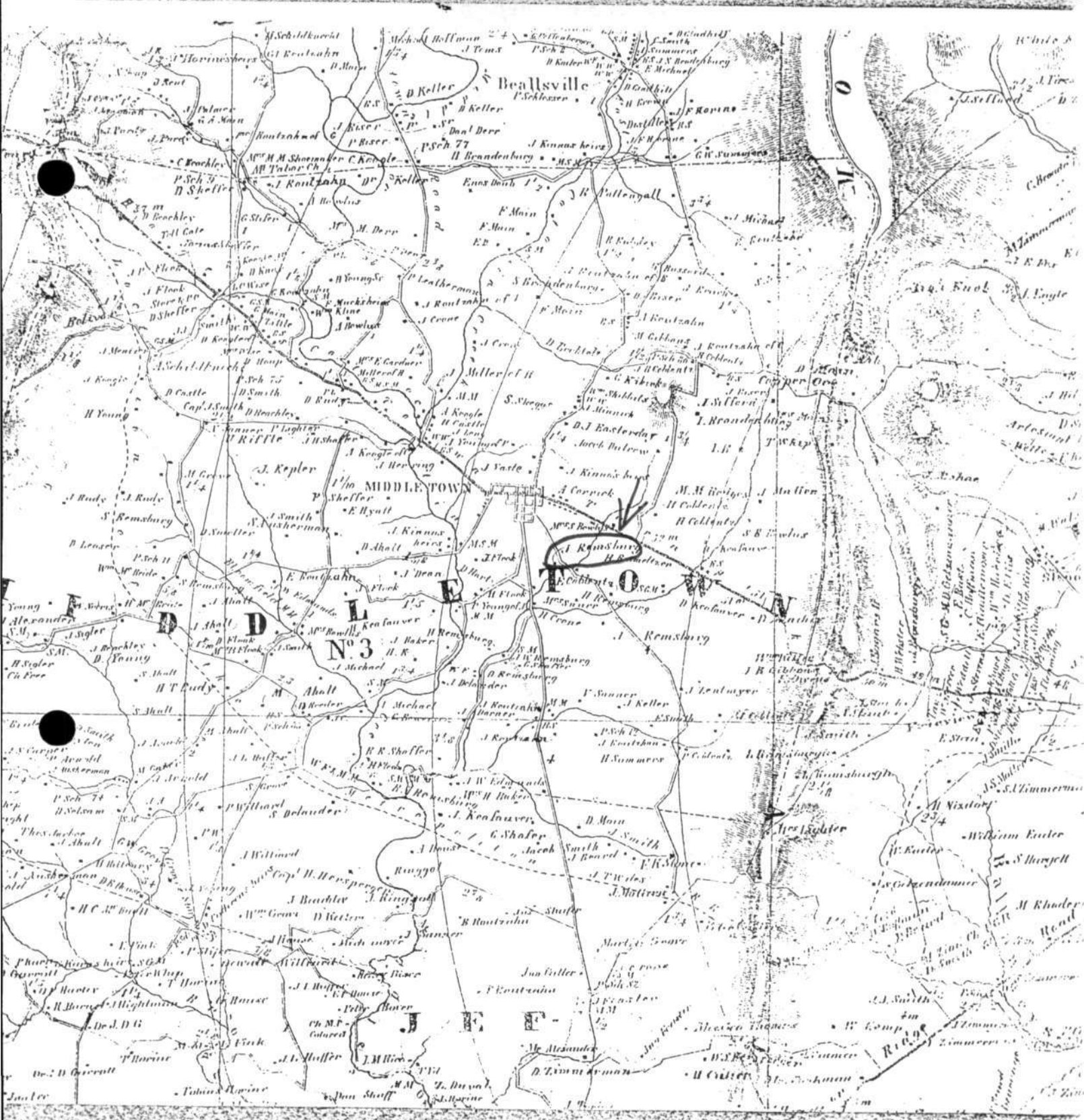
MIDDLETOWN DIST No. 3

Scale 1 1/2 Inches to the Mile

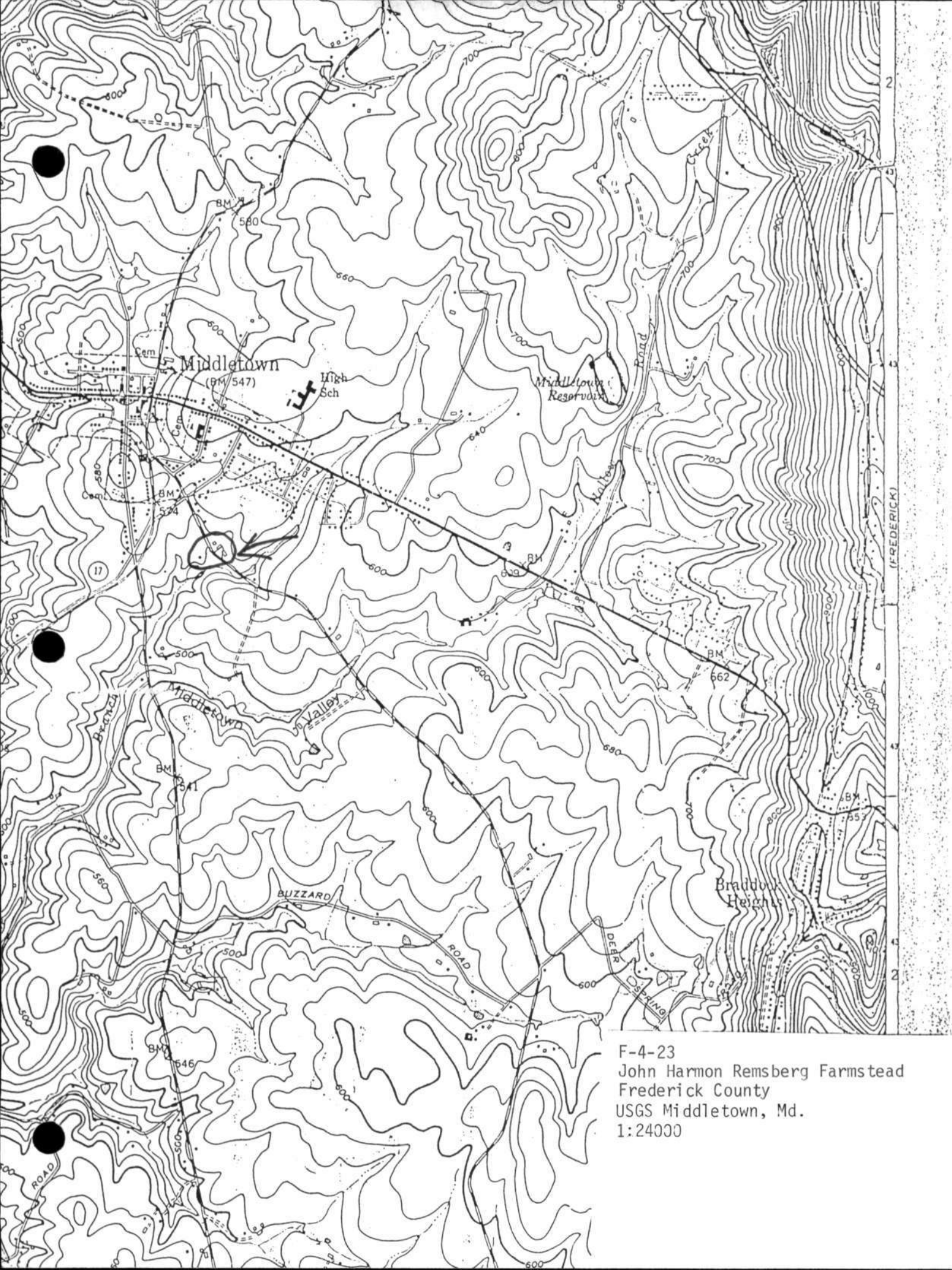


F-4-23

John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873



F-4-23
John Harmon Remsburg Farmstead
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
County, 1858



F-4-23
John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead
Frederick County
USGS Middletown, Md.
1:24000



F-4-23

John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Northeast elevation

1/6



F-4-23

John Harmon Remisberg Farmstead
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.
Southwest elevation

2/6



F-4-23

John Hanson Remsberg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Summer kitchen and smokehouse, view from
northeast

3/6



F-4-23

John Harman Remsberg Farmstead
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

Barn, Southeast corner view

4/6



F-4-23

John Harmon Remsburg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Charnsville, Md

Dairy barn, south elevation

5/6



F-4-23.

John Harman Remsberg Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Wagon shed/corn crib, view from southeast

6/6